

## Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AID-20 IGA-02 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

RSC-01 RSR-01 /053 W

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R 201030 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6431

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FOR STATE AND AID/ W

EO 11652: N/ A

TAGS: EAID, OTRA, SU

SUBJ: SURVEY TOUR BY GOS AUDITOR GENERAL

1. SUMMARY: GOS HAS PRESENTED EMBASSY WITH REQUEST TO ASSIST IN ARRANGING TOUR OF US FOR SUDANESE AUDITOR GENERAL ( AG) FOR PURPOSE EXAMINING VARIOUS TRAINING POSSIBILITIES FOR MEMBERS AG STAFF. REQUEST EXPLICITLY STATED IN TERMS RENEWING SUCCESSFUL AID TRAINING PROGRAM IN EFFECT 1965-1967. HOWEVER, IN RESPONSE TO EMBASSY SUGGESTION THAT TRIP MIGHT BEST BE DELAYED UNTIL DETAILS OF AID POSSIBILITIES CLEARER, GOS HAS ARGUED THAT TOUR IS PART OF BROADER SURVEY INCLUDING VISITS TO OTHER COUNTRIES AND IS NOT EFFORT TO PIN DOWN SOURCES OF ASSISTANCE AT THIS TIME. IN FACE THIS ARGUMENT AND IN VIEW FACT GOS PAYING FOR TRIP, EMBASSY BELIEVES IT MOST DIFFICULT TURN DOWN REQUEST ON POLICY GROUNDS. POSSIBLE LOGISTIC PROBLEMS ARE INVOLVED, HOWEVER, IN VIEW DESIRED STARTING DATE OF MAY 10. RECOMMENDATION: THAT STATE/ AID ACCEDE TO GOS REQUEST IF DESIRED ITINERARY OR SUITABLE ALTERNATIVE CAN BE ARRANGED IN TIME ALLOWED.

2. PURPOSE AND ITINERARY. UNDER COVER OF MFA DIPLOMATIC NOTE, GOS AG HAS ASKED FOR USG ASSISTANCE IN ARRANGING TOUR OF US TO BE MADE AT GOS EXPENSE FOR PURPOSE OF " SURVEYING POSSIBLE MEANS OF TRAINING AUDITOR GENERAL' S SUDANESE STAFF AND ARRANGING FUTURE COOPERATION IN REGARD TO ACCOUNTING SYSTEM

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BETWEEN AMERICA AND SUDAN WITH VIEW OF APPLYING ADVANCED AND HIGHLY DEVELOPED AMERICAN SYSTEM." DATES PROPOSED FOR TOUR ARE MAY 10-31, 1973. AG HAS OUTLINED SCOPE OF DESIRED PROGRAM AS FOLLOWS: ( A) 5 DAYS WASHINGTON, FIRST TWO ORIENTATION, LAST THREE FOR MEETINGS WITH AID TO DISCUSS SPONSORING TRAINING COURSES AND WITH USG COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR GENERAL; ( B) 3 DAY VISIT TO CONNECTICUT TO MEET WITH STATE AUDITORS HARTFORD TO DISCUSS ON- THE- JOB TRAINING AND STUDIES AT UNIVERSITY; ( C) 2 DAY VISIT SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY; ( D) 11 DAYS IN FIVE DIFFERENT STATES ( TO BE SELECTED BY USG) TO BECOME ACQUAINTED WITH THEIR ACCOUNTING SYSTEMS. REQUEST STATES SPECIFICALLY THAT SUGGESTED ITINERARY NOT RIGID AND THAT RECOMMENDED CHANGES WILL BE GLADLY ACCEPTED.

3. AG DISCUSSES PURPOSE OF PROGRAM IN CONTEXT FAVORABLE EXPERIENCE HIS STAFF HAD WITH SUCH TRAINING UNDER USAID AUSPICES FROM 1965-67. HE WOULD IN BRIEF LIKE TO RENEW THIS PROGRAM AND HIS TRIP IS INTENDED TO EXAMINE THE VARIOUS POSSIBILITIES WHICH MIGHT BE PURSUED UNDER SUCH PROGRAM.

4. SUGGESTED DELAY: CITING UNCERTAINTIES NATURE TRAINING ASSISTANCE WHICH MIGHT BE PROVIDED BY USAID AND ARRIVAL RELATIVELY NEAR FUTURE OF AID AFFAIRS OFFICER, EMBASSY SUGGESTED TO MFA THAT TRIP MIGHT BETTER BE MADE AT LATER DATE. WE NOTED UNCERTAINTIES REGARDING OUR RESOURCES AND POINTED OUT ADDITIONAL PROBLEM OF DETERMINING WHERE THIS PROGRAM MIGHT FIT IN GOS LIST OF PRIORITIES. WE NOTED AID EMPHASIS, AS PER SEPTEMBER VISIT BY AID MISSION, OF WORKING WITHIN GOS PRIORITIES.

5. GOS RESPONSE: MFA OFFICIAL RESPONDED THAT AG NOT SEEKING PIN DOWN SPECIFICS OF ASSISTANCE PROGRAM ON THIS TRIP. RATHER THIS PART OF BROADER TOUR OF INVESTIGATION, INCLUDING VISITS TO UK, FRANCE AND FRG, WHICH WOULD ENABLE GOS DETERMINE WHERE AND WHAT ASSISTANCE MIGHT BEST MEET ITS NEED. TRIP WOULD THEREFORE PERMIT GOS DISCUSS POSSIBILITIES OF USAID ASSISTANCE MORE INTELLIGENTLY THAN WOULD BE POSSIBLE IF TRIP DELAYED.

6. COMMENT: DESPITE MFA GENERAL ASSURANCES, THIS REQUEST IS CLEARLY PRECURSOR OF SPECIFIC REQUEST FOR TRAINING UNDER AID AUSPICES. BY AGREEING TO TRIP WE ONLY INCREASING LEVEL OF DISAPPOINTMENT IF THAT REQUEST MUST SUBSEQUENTLY BE TURNED DOWN. IN EMBASSY'S VIEW, HOWEVER, IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT IN PRESENT INSTANCE TO TURN DOWN WHAT IS ON SURFACE ONLY REQUEST FOR ADVICE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AS TO CONTACTS WHICH MIGHT BE MOST USEFUL AND FOR ASSISTANCE

IN MAKING APPOINTMENTS. PROBLEM MAY EXIST, HOWEVER, EITHER IN MAKING VARIETY OF APPOINTMENTS SUGGESTED OR IN DOING SO IN RELATIVELY SHORT TIME AVAILABLE BEFORE PORPOSED MAY10 ARRIVAL DATE.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: THAT, IF IT PRACTICALLY POSSIBLE, DEPT AND AID ARRANGE SCHEDULE FOR AG EITHER AS REQUESTED OR AMENDED AS DEEMED APPROPRIATE. ONCE EMBASSY NOTIFIED THAT SUCH ASSISTANCE POSSIBLE, WE PROPOSE RESPOND MFA NOTE MAKING EXPLICIT POINT THAT TOUR BEING SET UP WITH CLEAR UNDERSTANDING THAT IT DOES NOT CONSTITUTE COMMITMENT BY USG TO PROVIDE TRAINING FOR AG' S STAFF SHOULD SUCH BE REQUESTED. ANY SUCH REQUEST WOULD HAVE TO BE CONSIDERED SUBSEQUENTLY NOT ONLY IN LIGHT AVAILABLE USG RESOURCES BUT ALSO ACCORDING GOS' S OWN STATED PRIORITIES.  
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\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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